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The author is to be commended for his repeated recommendation that no project of magnitude be undertaken without competent engineering services. This book will assist in determining whether or not a project has sufficient merit to justify such services.

L. R. NASH

BOSTON, MASS.

English Industries of the Middle Ages. By L. F. SALZMANN. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1913. Pp. x+260. \$2.00 net.

This book approaches its subject from an unusual angle. Most histories of mediaeval industry are devoted to the development of industrial organization and drag their weary length along through gilds merchant and craft gilds and domestic systems and so forth. Mr. Salzmänn undertakes to trace, in separate chapters, the separate histories of the most important English industries in the Middle Ages. It is amazing, when one comes to think of it, how little has been done in this particular direction. With the exception of Mr. Galloway's *Annals of Coal Mining*, Mr. G. R. Lewis' admirable book on *The Stannaries*, and the excellent local studies in the *Victoria County History*, there is nothing in print which deals satisfactorily with the mediaeval history of even the most important English industries. Mr. Salzmänn, in rather less than 250 pages, has done something to supply this deficiency. He has separate chapters on the earlier history of coal, iron, lead and silver, and tin mining; a chapter on quarrying, one on metal-working, one on pottery, another on cloth-making, another on leather-working, another on brewing, and a final one on the control of industry. Although these chapters are necessarily brief, it is gratifying to discover that in every one, with the possible exception of the last, where Mr. Salzmänn follows a well-trodden path, he has been able to make a positive contribution of value to what is already known about the subject. He has drawn very largely upon unpublished material and must have read an enormous number of documents in order to accumulate his facts. Anyone who has worked at all in the sources of mediaeval industrial history knows how far scattered they are. It is a great pity that Mr. Salzmänn was forced to abandon his original plan of compiling a companion volume of transcripts from the documents after the manner of Fagniez' *Documents relatifs à l'histoire de l'industrie et du commerce en France*.

It would take too long to apprise the many valuable points which Mr. Salzmänn has made in the course of his little book. Only a few can be indicated, as, for example, his figures on the English coal trade

under Elizabeth, his excellent accounts of the early methods of working iron and lead (he notes the use of a hammer driven by water power for the breaking of ore as early as 1496), and his descriptions (long needed) of the various processes in mediaeval cloth-making and in the preparation of leather. It ought to be remarked, in passing, that he corrects an old fallacy about the "burellers" which led Mr. Unwin astray some years ago (p. 136; cf. Unwin, *Industrial Organization in the 16th and 17th Centuries*, p. 28). These morsels will serve to give a taste of the erudition which flavors the whole book.

Perhaps the most pleasing feature about the book is its absolute freedom from any form of pedantry. Mr. Salzmann has, if anything, too scant respect for the methods of the dry-as-dust. He might have enlarged his footnotes to advantage and, had he chosen, he could easily have added a valuable bibliographical appendix. His method of treatment is delightful. Already in his *Mediaeval Byways* he has shown how lightly and gracefully he can drape the dry bones which he digs out of old graveyards, and he displays the same facility in this volume. One sample of his style will serve to illustrate this point: "The mediaeval craftsman was not called a master of craft for nothing! He had no more conscience than a plumber and his knowledge of ways that are dark and tricks that are vain was extensive and peculiar." It is not every writer of mediaeval history that can quote Bret Harte to such purpose!

CONYERS READ

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

A Select Bibliography for the Study, Sources, and Literature of English Mediaeval Economic History. Compiled by a seminar of the London School of Economics under the supervision of Hubert Hall. London: P. S. King & Son, 1914. 8vo, pp. xiii+350. 5s. net.

It was an admirable idea of Mr. Hall to combine a series of lectures on the theory of historical bibliography with practical experiment in "this needful exercise." Would that there were more teachers like him and more students like his! Most students show great disinclination to bibliographical research.

The book falls into three parts. The introduction deals with the instruments of research and the auxiliary sciences, and gives working bibliographies, inventories of records and state archives, inventories of local records and provincial archives, etc. Part II, "The Sources of Mediaeval Economic History," is composed of bibliographies of the